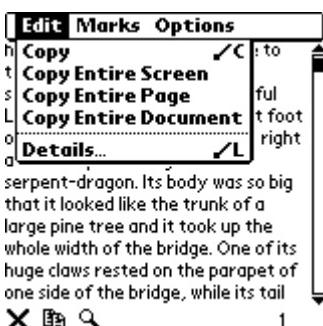# What's Up DOC

Editorial   By Pete Scisco

You own a Palm device. Everybody knows it. So you suspect that during the upcoming gift giving season you're likely to get some kind of accessory or software for your favorite handheld. Don't get a blank look on your face if that gift happens to be an e-book. Make sure you have a DOC reader handy on your handheld.

There are several good DOC readers on the market, including shareware and freeware programs. Many of them, and many of the better word processors and text editors, read the Palm DOC format (the most common document format for Palm files, not to be confused with Microsoft Word DOC files). If you haven't picked a Palm DOC reader for your handheld, here's a look at a few that will get you to the next page.

TealDoc 4.51 from TealPoint Software is a $16.95 shareware program that not only opens standard DOC files but also boasts several advanced features such as screen rotation and support for external VFS-compatible media cards. TealDoc offers full bookmarking features as well as hyperlinking to extra content such as images and other DOC files. Text searching and beaming are also suported.

At a lower price is Handmark Software's Mobile LinkDoc. This $10 reader also lets you create bookmarks and links between your DOC files, an especially useful feature for researchers, students, and anyone looking for the connections between ideas. (In fact, a DOC reader isn't worth much if it doesn't let create bookmarks.) Mobile LinkDoc makes good use of the Palm's small screen, providing full navigation by means of your handheld's buttons (stylus taps are also supported). This reader also gives you the ability to search and copy text (great for note taking).

If memory space on your Palm OS device is an issue, consider the iSilo reader. This $17.50 shareware reader uses its own format to reduce text files by 50 percent or more. The program also reads standard Palm DOC files. Like TealDoc, iSilo supports VFS. Its file management tools let you categorize, rename, or move documents, view information about documents, and even beam a document. Copy and paste utilities plus an advanced search and find capability make it a great note-taking program for students.

If money is an issue, download the free Palm Reader, from Palm Digital Media. The navigation in Palm Reader is a little different than in other readers in that it moves ahead a page at a time instead of scrolling. Like iSilo, the Palm Reader uses its own format to save space, but it also reads files in the standard DOC format. A nice touch to this program is that it remembers where you were in your book, so when you open it a second time you go right to where you left off. Bookmarks and notes are supported, but not to the extent of other readers.

These are just a few of the many DOC readers available. Electronic books won't replace paper any time soon, but the convenience and usefulness of the DOC format for handhelds is already established. Happy reading.

PayDay 2.3

Tracking finances on your Palm OS device extends the usefulness of your gear. But not everyone wants or needs a pint-size Money or Quicken in his or her pocket. Many users would be just as happy to just track when bills are due, how much is owed, and jot down some miscellaneous notes. PayDay obliges but lacks basic features.

PayDay is simple. Tap the on-screen Begin button, then the New Bill button from the menu (also includes About, Help, and Info selections) and fill out the form with a

$10   ANIMA3D
www.anima3d.com

description of the bill, the due date (the Palm's pop-up calendar works here), the amount, and check the unpaid or paid box. Tap the OK button and your entry is saved to a bills list.

The download trial version is limited but a bug lets you bypass the restriction. (Tap the Begin button, then the Help button, and then the New Bill button.).

The program lacks an alarm feature and a feature for entering repeating bills. Good idea, but there's nothing here you couldn't do with a To-Do list. --PS

News

Touch Typing

A couple of mobile keyboards showcased at COMDEX this year move us right into the weird. Senseboard, which is slated to sell for around $150 and ship early in 2002, uses a couple of rubber pads that you attach to each of your palms. Type as if a keyboard was in front of you and your words are supposed to be sent to your Palm OS device (or other handheld) by RF or wire. Samsung showed it's own device called Scurry, which works by attaching motion sensors to each finger. The device, which is supposed to reach the USA in 2003 at a price of around $50, is reported to use gyroscopic technology to detect angular movements of fingers through space. These devices give a whole new meaning to the phrase "touch typing."

m500 Accessories

Belkin introduced a line of accessories for the Palm m500 line at COMDEX. The accessories include a portable keyboard (about $70), a USB cradle-and-charger combo (about $20), plus a selection of styli, screen overlays, and travel chargers. All of the accessories should be in retail stores by early 2002.

On the Road Again

Sony Clie users will like the newest version of Palm Reader (1.1.2), which now supports the hi-res screen of the Clie. If you really like the new version you can take advantage of a special "buy one, get one free" promotion. The free giveaway matches two book in a single genre (two science fiction titles, for example) so you can get both titles for the cost of one.

New Products

ReviewMaster Standard 2.0

Students at almost any level can use this updated program to study for a variety of tests. The program takes you through the quiz, grades it, and reviews each missed question so you can improve your score and your comprehension. A deluxe version is available that you can use to create your own tests, or download tests from the publisher's website. Costs $14.95. Click here to download.